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HB 3237
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A
COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE SHORELINE PUBLIC ACCESS PROGRAM

Statement for
House Committee on
Water, Land Use, Development, and Hawaiian Affairs
Public Hearing - February 11, 1988

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HB 3237 would provide funds for the development of a comprehensive statewide shoreline public access program to manage and protect ancient highways, trails and other public easements.

Our statement on this bill does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

With the ever increasing urbanization and development along the shorelines, loss of public access to the sea has become a major concern. HB 3237 would address this problem by supporting a number of studies related to identifying and documenting shoreline access on a statewide basis. While we support the intent of the bill, some amendment seems needed.

Paragraph (1) would provide \$50,000 for a legal task force to identify shoreline accesses in the public domain, review shoreline boundaries, and provide authority to institute legal action against those who block access. The bill does not stipulate who or how many will serve on the legal task force. the funds (\$50,000) would appear to be insufficient for more than a minimum number of people for a very short time. Furthermore, the suggested "review of shoreline boundaries of the oceanfront" may be a particularly difficult task even if limited to published maps and documents. Field inspections would require an enormous level of effort. We assume that the Department of Land and Natural Resources has legal authority to institute action against those who block access on conservation lands. It is not clear if the authority that would be given by HB 3237 would apply in the case of other land use districts or if

statutory amendment would be needed. Paragraphs 2-6 itemize actions that should be encompassed in paragraph 1.

We suggest simplification of the bill to focus on the need for a statewide shoreline access inventory with the provisions for guidelines, standards, evaluation, and recommendations of paragraphs 7 and 8 to follow.